



# THE SIOUX WAR:

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH IT?

# THE SIOUX INDIANS:

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THEM?

A REPRINT OF PAPERS  
COMMUNICATED TO THE ST. PAUL DAILY PRESS, IN OCTOBER, 1862

BY JAMES W. TAYLOR.

SAINT PAUL:  
OFFICE OF THE PRESS PRINTING COMPANY.  
1862.

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"Why do the heathen rage? \* \* Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron. Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. \* \* The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they have made: in the net which they hid, is their own feet taken. The Lord is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. \* \* The Lord is king for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land. \* \* We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their days in the times of old, how thou didst drive out the heathen with thy hand, and plantedst them. \* \* O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever."—BOOK OF PSALMS.

## LATE INDIAN MASSACHES.

[Correspondence of the Quincy Union, Oct. 28th.]

Seeing an account of the massacre by the Indians on the train of George W. Adams, while crossing the Plains, recently published in the Sacramento Union, and observing some inaccuracies, I deem it necessary to state that the men undoubtedly died afterward, as they were very seriously wounded.

We had now a company of one hundred and twelve wagons, and the several trains joined for the purpose of mutual defense. John Walker was unanimously elected Captain of the company. He made a selection of twenty well armed men, and mounted them on the best horses in the company, who acted as scouts.

From the New York Express.

## The Minnesota Indians—The Whys and Wherefores of Things in Minnesota.

We stated the other day what Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota, has in part confirmed—that the (Republican) Indian Agents of that State, by cheating and robbing the Indians of their annuities, were, in a good degree, the cause of the recent horrible Indian outbreak.

Mr. Wilkinson is now very urgent in the United States Senate, we see, that these Indians should be expelled from the territory of Minnesota, as well as executed—three hundred of them in number. There is a tale *in, and of, and behind* all this. The Indians of Minnesota who have adopted any of the modes and forms of civilization, are made voters—that is to say, if any of the Indians wear cocked hats, play cards, smoke pipes and drink whisky, they are deemed "civilized," and entitled to vote. These votes the Radical Abolitionists of Wilkinson's set have hitherto controlled through the instrumentality of Indian Agents of Wilkinson's appointment. These Indians have elected nine members of the State Legislature in full, and four partially, making thirteen in all. This year, when the Indians found out the tricks in their annuities, and who were their friends and their enemies, they quit Wilkinson's men and voted the Democratic or Union Republican ticket, headed by Ramsay, now Governor.

There are now three candidates before the Minnesota Legislature for the United States Senate—Rice, Democrat, (present Senator); Ramsay, Union Republican; and "Cy," Aldrich, Radical Abolition. "Cy," is Wilkinson's man. The Democrats and the moderate Republicans, in order to defeat "Cy," and Wilkinson, have agreed, if the Democrats have more votes in the Legislature than the Union Republicans, to re-elect Rice, if it is necessary in order to defeat "Cy," and if the Union Republicans have more members than the Democrats have, the Democrats have agreed to elect Ramsay. Hence Wilkinson has several revenges to gratify.

First. The expulsion of the Indians, now Democrats or Union Republicans, instead of being Wilkinson's men; and,

Second. The defeat of both Ramsay, Union Republican, and of Rice, Democrat.

We see from all this what rascalities, frauds and crimes are often mixed up with politics, and to what horrible results they often lead—as in this recent Indian outbreak.

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# LATE INDIAN MASSACRES.

[Correspondence of the Quincy Union, Oct. 18th.]

Seeing an account of the massacre by the Indians on the train of George W. Adams, while crossing the Plaine, recently published in the Sacramento Union, and observing some inaccuracies, I deem it of sufficient interest that a correct statement of the circumstances should be published, as Adams was formerly a resident of this county, and quite a number of those who were killed at the time have friends in this and the adjoining counties.

The train was quietly wending its way on the road, about ten miles this side of the American Falls of Snake river, but were very much scattered, when, without any previous warning, they were attacked by from seventy-five to one hundred mounted Indians, who commenced a rapid fire from their ponies. Adams formed his wagons as speedily as possible into a corral shape, and his men prepared themselves as well as circumstances would permit to make a defense, but to little account, for the Indians would ride in on their ponies to within long range fire, and then retreat to reload. Meantime they were rapidly forming a circle around the camp, when the little band, finding that their only hope was in retreat, left their wagons. It was in this retreat that three men were killed and several wounded—among the wounded was a lady. Towards evening several trains came along and the fugitives gathered into camp.—Newman & Kennedy's train took up the survivors, and that night a corral of eighty-six wagons was formed, while a little later Thompson's train of twenty wagons came up and camped in the vicinity, which made us feel more safe. The next morning, August 10th, a company of 40 well armed and mounted men, under the lead of Captain Kennedy, started out to recover if possible the stolen stock.—About five miles off from the road they came upon a camp where there were about 300 well armed Indians, who charged upon the little band of Kennedy and forced them to retire. In this skirmish three of our party were killed by the first fire and several wounded—Captain Kennedy mortally. On arriving at camp we found that Capt. John Walker's train of forty-six wagons had come in during our absence; a double guard was posted, the fires put out, and the band of emigrants spent the night in administering such remedies for the wounded as were at hand. The next morning a company of volunteers went back to the place of attack and found five bodies, which they brought in; and, beneath the shadow of the inhospitable Snake river mountains, we laid them down in their final resting place. On Tuesday morning, Miss Elizabeth Adams, a highly accomplished and beautiful young lady, who was wounded in the retreat of Saturday while assisting her mother to escape, died, and was buried amid the sobs of strong hearted men, and the quivering lips and moistened eyes of the company, showing that she had endeared herself to all by her gentleness and self-sacrificing bravery. The place where the company was camped was at the junction of the Oregon with the main California road, and here Kennedy's train left us, taking the Oregon road. Capt. Kennedy and one of his men undoubtedly died afterward, as they were very seriously wounded.

We had now a company of one hundred and twelve wagons, and the several trains joined for the purpose of mutual defense. John Walker was unanimously elected Captain of the company. He made a selection of twenty well armed men, and mounted them on the best horses in the company, who acted as scouts, keeping in advance and closely examining the ravines and bad canons near the road. A similar number were placed in the rear to guard against surprise from that quarter, while all who were not engaged in driving teams or stock were required to keep at a convenient distance from each other on each side of the train. In this manner we started from Raft river. Wednesday we passed a place where a train had been destroyed, but could find no graves. On Thursday we came to another place where a wagon had been robbed and burned; here we found the bodies of five men murdered, and almost entirely denuded of flesh. They were, doubtless, returning Californians.

This night we were attacked again, but the night was dark, and none of our party were wounded; some of the stock was out of the corral, but under the cool directions of Capt. Walker we got them all safely in, and then whenever the flash of a gun could be seen, our fire was directed to it. Several rounds were fired, but without any apparent effect, while the savage war-whoop served to keep us wide awake. At last a loud shriek from our besiegers, and the sudden cessation of their fire, led us to believe that we had given some important Indian a severe wound. We were troubled no more that night, nor in fact any more from that time, as they were doubtless convinced that the vigilance with which Capt. Walker

gained for, and it is owing to his prudence and bravery that we had no further trouble, as we could every once in a while see Indians on the adjacent hills watching us, while their signal fires gave us warning that they were constantly in our vicinity.

The names of those killed in the several attacks were Geo. W. Adams and his sister Elizabeth Adams, from Madison, Iowa; M. O. Tappi, Wisconsin; A. J. Hunter, Iowa City; Charles Bullurickle, New York city; George Teaser, (scalped,) Iowa; Wm. Mottes, Washington county, Iowa; Thomas Newman, Wapello, Iowa; and Thomas Paul, Fremont, Iowa. Seriously wounded—John K. Kenedy. Wounded—James Crawford, John Walker, John Miller, E. Taylor, Thomas Bradford, P. O. Sullivan, A. J. Cassidy, John Papperson and Giovanni Bennetti, (Italian.)

The amount of stock lost at American Falls massacre, including horses, mules and cattle, was ninety head. Cash taken, \$17,500, while the total loss in wagons, provisions, clothing, etc., cannot be less than \$30,000. The above account, without burthening your columns with the details, is correct; being an abstract of things as written on the spot.

As most of the killed and wounded were from Iowa and Wisconsin, it might be the means of bringing to the notice of their friends the facts, if some of the papers in those States would copy. I would request that they copy as much of this as will give such notice to the friends and relatives of the wounded.

H. F. SWASEY.

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## THE SIOUX WAR:

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### I.

#### IS THE WAR ENDED?

As a *defensive* war, it may be; as an *offensive* war, it is just begun.

We hear of no more massacres in the heart of populous counties—a few of the fugitives from burning and bleeding homes are returning in October to the scenes of August desolation—the approach of winter has transformed a portion of the annuity Sioux from murderers and thieves to beggars at the camp of Sibley—sixty days, with the exception of the disaster at Birch Coolie and the victory of Wood Lake, have been occupied, perhaps well employed, in the indispensable preliminary to a vigorous campaign, namely, the release of the white captives—and now comes the word from the frontier that the season is too far advanced for the effective pursuit of Little Crow to the Yanktonnais villages on the headwaters of the James River; and the Eastern press takes up the cry, *that the war is ended!*

It is not ended! The blood of our brethren cries to us from the ground!

What the people of Minnesota demand is—not that the enemy shall retire towards the Missouri, to boast in Teton lodges that five whites to one Indian have been slain, and, while parading their plunder, to instigate another attack with tenfold numbers on the settlements of the Minnesota and the Missouri; but that the war shall now be *offensive*. Its first stage is happily ended—the captives are released; and that obstacle to a just retribution for the untold horrors of August being removed, now, in God's name, let the columns of vengeance move on! If the months of November, December and January are too severe for field operations, they can be made none the less available to organize a spring campaign. The Northwest only asks the Government to disregard—utterly to reject—any suggestion or overture for peace with the Sioux, until the whole accursed brood are crushed—crushed as no band of these North American Sepoys have ever been punished by military force.

Present safety of our Minnesota frontier is not enough—even indemnity for the



past is not enough—SECURITY FOR THE FUTURE is the object of the war. Who will say that the events of Sibley's campaign (and all award high praise to officers and men for what they have accomplished in so brief a period,) afford this indispensable security? The nation will be derelict, if the opportunity is lost to make another Indian war in the Northwest impossible.

General Pope, a native of Illinois, whose name is identified with the progress of the Western frontier from Minnesota to Texas, has recognized the gravity of the situation, and proposes a series of movements, for the protection of Nebraska and Dakota Territories as well as the Minnesota border, which are adequate to the end proposed—not a particle in excess of what the emergency demands. It is proper that the people and press of Minnesota shall first be assured of this, and then, with the concurrence of our Senators and Representatives, the military authorities at Washington will readily co-operate in measures indispensable to our future security.

## II.

### THE NUMBERS AND SITUATION OF THE ENEMY.

I anticipated in a communication to the Press of August 29, that "the Dakotah nation, wherever scattered, would be involved in this war." This was an inference from the hostile disposition of the Missouri Sioux, as reported in 1859, by Lieut. G. K. Warren, but since August we have abundant evidence that the outbreak was largely, if not exclusively, by the instigation of Southern emissaries. Gen. Blunt, who has just returned from the execution of Gen. Pope's orders on the Missouri, reports positively to this effect, and Senator Rice, while at Bayfield, wrote, and since is accustomed to

affirm, that the difficulties with the Chippewas can be traced to the machinations of Southern "rebels and traitors."

As before stated, the area from which the Dakota nation excludes all other Indian tribes is 200,000 square miles, or five times the size of Ohio, and their total population is 30,000, or 6,000 warriors, of whom half live in the vicinity of the Black Hills, west of the Missouri river. The Minnesota Dakotas number 6,200, or 1,210 warriors. The Yanktons and Yanktonnais occupy most of the territory between the western boundary of Minnesota and the Missouri river. The Yanktons number 2,880, or 576 warriors. The Yanktonnais number 6,400 or 1,280 warriors, and range as far north as Devil's Lake, and seldom below the latitude of Big Stone Lake.

The Sioux (I prefer thus to style them, and not as Dakotas) who are east of the Missouri, are 15,000 in number, or 3,000 warriors: and is there a single reader so credulous, as to doubt that they are *all* implicated in the late massacre? A slight recapitulation of familiar events, will remove such a doubt, if it lingers in any mind.

1. The Minnesota Sioux—designated in bands as Mde-wakan-tens, Wah-pe-kutes, Wah-petons, and Sissitons—have been the chief actors in the tragedy, leading the attacks on New Ulm, Ridgley, and Abercrombie.

2. Letters from Byron M. Smith, and other citizens of Dakota territory, implicate the Yanktons as engaged in the destruction of Sioux Falls City, and the murder of Judge Amidon and his son. They also pillaged in the vicinity of Yankton and Fort Randall. These acts, and others of the same nature, afford ample grounds for declaring all treaties with the Yanktons forfeited.

3. The Yanktonnais, who infest the

head-waters of the James River, and the coulees of Minniwakan or Devil's Lake, have been identified as engaged in the assaults upon Fort Abercrombie: and Judge Flandrau gives good reasons for the opinion that some of them were in the battle of New Ulm. They have never been at peace with the United States; while every train from Selkirk, passing west of the Red River, is in danger from their treacherous assaults. The village of St. Joseph, near Pembina, occupied by an industrious and religious people, has been depopulated for want of the protection due by our government. American citizens, among them Mrs. Spencer, a missionary, have been killed in their houses and gardens at St. Joseph by the Yanktonnais. Letters from Captain Fisk's party contained accounts of their outrages upon white traders and an Assiniboin camp, near Fort Union in August last. They are not only the scourge of the American valley of the Red River: but, hitherto, have been the terror of our neighbors at Selkirk. If ever a *casus belli* was established against a tribe of savages, then these Northern Sioux bands have amply deserved the retribution which is in store for them.

When Gen. Pope (then Capt. Pope) visited Minnesota in 1819, his military eye selected Pembina Mountain, overlooking the (since) doomed village of St. Joseph, as an eligible site for a military post to restrain the Yanktonnais from these depredations, and, in his report, he pointed to the half-blood population of Pembina and Selkirk as the best possible material for an expedition against their enemies of the plains, when the chastisement of the latter became indispensable. The situation at this moment justifies his sagacity. May both suggestions now become realities! A fortress on the international frontier will doubtless receive the appropriation which has been the

topie of repeated memorials by the Minnesota Legislature to Congress, and if the villainous Yanktonnais are not suffered to go unwhipped of justice, I hope to hear, with the first grass of 1863, that Joseph Rolette, mounted on his favorite Fireaway, is gallantly charging at the head of a squadron recruited with the blessing of Saint Boniface upon the Yanktonnais' encampments.

4. So much for the Sioux east of the Missouri and who immediately threaten the valleys of the Big Sioux, the Upper Minnesota and the Red River of the North. As to the Tetons, or the body equally numerous, who range in the vicinity of the Black Hills, I shall not repeat my former citations from Lieut. (now Brigadier General) Warren's report of 1858-9. It is sufficient to say that he represents them as implacably hostile—as determined, notwithstanding their position in 1855 by Gen. Harney, to seize the first opportunity to renew the war; and that, in the summer of 1857, at a grand council on the Shoshone of the Missouri (as a chief informed Lieut. Warren) their "hearts felt strong at seeing how numerous they were, and if they went to war again they would not yield so easy as they did before."

As these Teton Sioux—especially the Brules and Okandandas—range as far South as the Platte River, threatening the Overland Route even to the South Pass, I have no doubt that they are responsible for some of the many outrages on emigrant trains in that direction, of which the newspapers give accounts. Unquestionably, the hostile demonstrations near Fort Pierre—a point on the Missouri river about 120 miles east of the Black Hills—reported in the St. Louis papers, of which intelligence was brought in September by steamers descending the Missouri, were instigated by these sullen

savages of the remote plains. Still, for the present, we await the definite assurances of Teton hostility, which we possess in regard to the bands immediately west of the Minnesota frontier.

Of the 3,000 warriors whose hostility is certain, and of the 6,000 who will probably be hostile, how many have straggled back and fallen to upon Sibley's rations? Have one-fifth of our certain, or one-tenth of our probable, enemies done so? I doubt if he has received the submission of 2,000 souls, all told, or 500 warriors. If so, six-sevenths of the savages east of the Missouri, *with all of whom the war is flagrant*, remain to be dealt with.

The question so vital to Minnesota and the Northwest—What will Government do with the war?—I do not propose to consider; except respectfully to ask on behalf of the Minnesota Historical Society, that any flag of truce hitherto in use on the Upper Minnesota, may be consigned by the careful hands of Lieut. Shelley to the archives of that institution. I have simply helped count the enemy, and am content to record my reasons for the opinion that *the Sioux war is not ended—on the contrary, that it is just begun*. Its conduct is in good hands. Let us hope and pray that they are not paralyzed.

### III.

#### GEN. WARREN'S VIEWS OF A SIOUX CAMPAIGN.

Before dismissing the immediate topic of the war, I hope to be excused for repeating the language of Lieutenant (now General) G. K. Warren, as expressed to Government in his Report of 1859:

"There are many inevitable causes at work," he says, "to produce a war with the Dakotas before many years."

"The Black Hills is the great point in their territory at which to strike all the Teton Dakotas,

except the Brules and Okandandas. Here they can assemble their largest force, and here I believe they would make a stand. In the event of another outbreak, a post should be established at the mouth of the Shesenne, on the north side, from which to operate simultaneously with troops from Fort Laramie. From both of these points wagon trains could move with ease, and supplies could be sent to the troops in the field. These operations would undoubtedly bring on a battle, where the superiority of the weapons of civilized warfare would secure a victory to us. They will not, I think, permit the occupation of the vicinity of these hills without offering a determined resistance. Driven from these they must go north towards the Missouri, where a still better field to operate against them will be found, as this region is in every way practicable. In this event it might become necessary to establish a temporary post above the Shesenne, and a most suitable and effective location is to be found near Long Lake, on the Missouri.

"Those who may take refuge in the ravines and fastnesses along the Niobrara, or in the sand hills, could be operated against from Forts Randall, Kearney and Laramie. Should the Isanties and Ihanktonwabs be hostile at the same time as the Tetonwabs, they should be operated against from Fort Ridgely.

"It will be perceived that in this plan I have considered a war with all the Dakotas to be on our hands, which at no distant day is probable and that there will be required a number of columns and a very large force to successfully operate over so much country. These columns need not to exceed in any case a strength of 400 men, and these should be subdivided so as to beat up the country as much as possible, and endeavor to draw the Indians into an engagement where they may have some hope of success. With proper troops and commanders we need not even then fear the result.

"The movement of large compact columns is necessarily slow and can easily be avoided, which the least military skill teaches the Indians to do. The war once begun should not be stopped till they are effectually humbled and made to feel the full power and force of the government, which is a thing in which the northern Dakotas are entirely wanting.

"I believe a vigorous course of action would be quite as humane as any other, and much more economical and effectual in the end. With proper arrangements the Assinibolins and Crows and Pawnees could be made most useful allies in a war with the northern Dakotas. I see no reason why they should not be employed against each other, and thus spare the lives of the whites."

## IV.

## THE REMOVAL OF THE INDIANS FROM THE STATE.

The prosecution of the Sioux war, with the vigor and results indicated by Gen. Warren, and proposed by Gen. Pope, will concentrate any policy toward the Indian tribes of the Northwest, which the government shall adopt. An indecisive campaign, or a campaign prematurely closed, will only restore the condition of the frontier which preceded and induced the late massacre, than which no greater calamity could befall Minnesota.

Let the people of Eastern States, once for all, be informed, that the reappearance of the Sioux Indians in the scenes of their demoniac cruelties, will be the signal of inevitable homicide. A wolf's life would be more secure than that of a Sioux Indian. Neither society or law has any restraint which could be enforced upon a husband and father, whose wife and little ones have been the victims of outrages, compared with which murder is mercy. No longer, here in Minnesota, have we the heart to taunt England for the stern justice, which blew the murderous Sepoy, in a mist of blood, from the cannon's mouth.

And will a Government, over which presides Lincoln—a son of the "Dark and Bloody Ground" and a citizen of Illinois—and which comprises Chase of Ohio, Smith of Indiana, Bates of Missouri, with such associates as Stanton and Halleck—can such rulers, all representative men of the West, do the work of the Lord negligently? The thought is inadmissible. What Washington did for the sufferers of Wyoming, when Sullivan swept the Iroquois villages with fire and sword—the boon of Mad Anthony Wayne to the Ohio frontier of 1798—the relentless blow of Harney in Oregon—such,

under the lead of Pope or Rice, must be, will be, the chronicle of retribution to the Sioux assassins, even if their accomplices are pursued with shot and shell to the Rocky Mountains.

While, simultaneously with such avenging upon our savage foe, will ascend a voice, which no representative of Minnesota or the Northwest, can withstand—the voice of a people demanding the removal of the Indians from the State, whose soil they have polluted, and whose history has been arrested by their heinous atrocities for a full generation.

The two questions are inseparably associated—What will Government do with the War? and what will Government do with the Indians?

The first question has been considered cursorily—the *last* will be discussed in more detail.

1. In the first place, the Sioux war has relieved the Government from all treaty obligations. Every bit of parchment is shrivelled to ashes in the fires kindled by the savages themselves. FORFEITURE is the word, well spoken by Governor Ramsey in his late message, and by Senator Wilkinson in a letter of October 7th, to Hon. G. K. Cleveland. The Winnebagoes, as is now ascertained, are parties to crimes which work a similar forfeiture; and even the Chippewas, by overt acts instigated by Hole in the Day, stand at the mercy of the Government. Thus is presented a clean sheet—*tabula rasa*—on which the Government can write two words—Punishment and Expulsion!

2. Minnesota, when urging the perpetual exile of the Indians, as our only indemnity for the past and security for the future, asks no more than has been done in behalf of other States. Since 1830 the policy of Indian removals has been firmly established. The exodus of the Chero-

kees from Georgia was the initial measure—Ohio next insisted upon the removal of the Wyandots—Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and other States were in turn relieved of their Indian population—and the only question, considered in any case, was, whether the civilization and material welfare of the State entitled it to the relief. No such appeal was ever presented at the doors of Congress or the Executive Bureau, as is now uttered, trumpet-tongued, in behalf of our sorely-smitten State. Indeed, we might rest the whole question upon the commanding attitude of Minnesota, not only in the production of wealth, but as the avenue of an international commerce which promises to be continental in its scope—but we prefer the simpler appeal to the impulses of our common humanity. We unite—men, women, and children—in an earnest petition, that the nation will cast out these devils, than whom none more devilish were exorcised by our Savior in old Judea—our prayer ascends to Him, who drove out the Heathen before the pioneers of Palestine, that He will incline the hearts of our rulers to save this beautiful State from the barbarization which any restoration of the Indians to their former reservations must inevitably entail. These considerations will surely be more persuasive than to assert exclusively our rights of sovereignty in this vital matter.

3. It is a libel upon those of our citizens who have hitherto been engaged in the fur and Indian trade, to assert that any considerable body of them desire a restoration of our old Territorial relations with the Indians. The community has outgrown such infancy of trade. What are the official perquisites or commercial profits of the system, which now lies in disastrous ruin, compared with the destruction in a single year of a million bushels of grain, the disper-

sion or sacrifice of thousands of domestic animals, the losses by incendiary fires, and the illimitable catalogue of personal risks and privations—passing over the bloody record of assassination? One year's emigration and one year's additional production, when the last retreating savage has crossed the border, will compensate for a decade of pecuniary advantages resulting from Indian administration or traffic; while who shall estimate the advance in the interests of education and morality, when the polluted stream of Indian intercourse shall be forever turned aside from our midst?

4. I assume, therefore, that we have a complete unity of public opinion in favor of the total expulsion of the Sioux and Winnebagoes from the State; but, candor requires the admission, that a policy less extreme in regard to the Chippewas is urged by many intelligent and patriotic citizens. It is said, that the country around the remote sources of the Mississippi will never be available for civilized settlement any more than the Adirondack region of Northern New York has hitherto been; while the fields of wild rice and the abundance of fish and water-fowl would make it a very suitable reservation of the whole Ojibwa nation, wherever scattered; and that, in the revision of treaties, for which Commissioners have been appointed, new regulations of a stringent nature might effectually relieve the settlers of Northern Minnesota from all annoyance.

At a later stage of the present discussion, this branch of the subject—the disposition of the Chippewas—will be resumed.

But as to the Sioux and Winnebagoes, let there be no question. As to them, the doom of exile must neither be suspended or revoked. If other agencies fail, the people of Minnesota will execute it.

I proceed to the supplementary, but important inquiry—*Where shall these Indians go?*

### V.

#### WHERE SHALL THE MINNESOTA INDIANS GO?

How much easier to consider this important question negatively—to indicate where the Indians should *not* stay or go, than to determine what disposition of them will forever relieve and secure the communities of the Northwest!

We are agreed that their removal from Minnesota is a foregone conclusion, but I am constrained to dissent from the policy of removing them further West, and inflicting upon the new settlements of the Missouri and in the Rocky Mountains, the identical inflictions of war and pillage which our frontier has suffered. Such a policy would be selfish in the extreme and utterly void of foresight. The question has assumed national importance, and must be settled in the interest of the coming State of Dakota and the new community which the summer of 1862 has attracted to the vicinity of Fort Benton and the Falls of the Missouri. The Government, notwithstanding the great Southern exigency, was never in a better situation to extend its guarantees of security to the Mountains. Opportunity and Duty combine in favor of a pacification of the great Interior Plains which stretch westwardly within the latitudes of Minnesota.

Suffice an enumeration of the social and material interests which will be jeopardized by the policy of procrastination—by measures so criminally inadequate as merely to roll the cloud from our immediate borders, to descend in terror and destruction upon communities less competent than even we have been, to avert or restrain the fury of the savage.

#### 1. *The North Pacific Railroad.*—At

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the late session of Congress, this important measure received a new impulse. Hon. J. R. Doolittle, Senator from the State of Wisconsin, introduced a bill providing for the appointment of three engineers to locate the most eligible route from Lake Superior to the navigable channel of the Columbia river, and dedicating the proceeds of alternate sections of the public lands for a belt of forty miles to its construction. The engineers, in determining the eastern section of the line, were instructed to adjust it, as far as practicable, in harmony with the railroads in Minnesota, for which Congress has made grants of land: while a connection from Lake Superior with the lines of Wisconsin which are now constructed, was also a feature of Senator Doolittle's bill. It passed the Senate unanimously, and will unquestionably become a law. The proposition is similar, in its leading provisions, to Senator Rice's favorite measure for the encouragement of three Overland communications—one North, one Central and one South—and which is destined, when the peace of the country is restored, to be fully consummated—perhaps as an essential element of future national concord.

Of course, no one anticipates a railroad for many years, but an emigrant, mail and express route would be instantly established and sustained, if the subjugation of the Sioux is fully accomplished. Give security to settlers, and a cordon of stations, surrounded by farms and domestic herds, would, within twelve months, link Lake Superior and Puget's Sound, either by Stevens' survey in latitude  $47^{\circ}$ , or by Noble's wagon road and its extension on the average parallel of  $45^{\circ}$ .

2. *The Gold Districts of Washington and Dakota Territories.* The year 1862 has made it certain that the whole mountain mass between latitudes  $44^{\circ}$  and  $47^{\circ}$

## OUR TREATMENT OF THE INDIANS.

Years ago, when the people of several Southern States, feeling themselves annoyed by the presence of Indians in their midst, demanded their removal, the New England clergy were clamorous about the wrong done to the red man. They denounced the Southern people, and declared that their conduct toward the Indians would call down the vengeance of God on the nation. Perhaps they were to some extent right at that time. Always good men among us have seen, in the intercourse of the whites with the Indians, much that has excited the rising of those sons of nature against their crafty depredators. For, without any exaggeration, it may be said that intercourse has been on the part of the whites a series of encroachments, more or less flagrant on the property and acknowledged rights of the Indians. The case has been no better at ~~the North~~ South than at the South. The North ~~Indians~~ Indians have been wronged as much as ~~the South~~, and in the wrong done, the Government has been indirectly a participant, through ~~corruption~~ corruption and profligacy of its agents, who have abused their trusts to the oppression of those whom they should have protected. Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota, in his eloquent statements of the wrongs perpetrated against the Indians, has only made one more addition to the hosts of proof which convict the white man in this controversy with his red neighbor.

The recent Indian rising in Minnesota was provoked by intolerable wrongs—the fruits, in part, of a vicious system of Government treatment, and in part of the neglect of Government in providing promptly the due means of preventing and punishing the frauds and oppressions which white men have been committing on the Indians; among which white men too many of its own agents may be reckoned. The Government is therefore primarily and chiefly in fault. The Indians are its wards, but the Government has shown itself a most unfaithful guardian.

What is one, and the most natural, of the consequences? The unreasoning savages, finding themselves without protection from the Government, and feeling that they had nothing left to rely on but their own arms, did exactly that to which savage vengeance points. A horrible massacre ensued. And who were the sufferers? Be sure that they were not the scoundrels and wretches who had provoked the Indians to these horrid deeds. They were innocent men, women and children—industrious tillers of the soil—in no ways implicated in the wrongs done to those savages. But their innocence could not protect them from the indiscriminating wrath of the roared foe; and so it always is in all such cases.

Our Government and nation have never been alive as they ought to have been to a sense of their guilt in their dealings with the Indians. The terrible situation in Minnesota should rouse them to it. Let our rulers consider the statement of Bishop Whipple.

Canada has not had an Indian war since the Revolution. We have hardly passed a year without one. The same tribes there are bound by ties of affection to the English crown—we spend millions to suppress Indian wars.

They may look also at the admission of another witness—James W. Taylor, Esq. This gentleman, who has been a Speaker of the Assembly, has published a pamphlet in order to recommend a scheme he has formed of transplanting the Indians to new settlements. This pamphlet imprecates the severest wholesale measures of punishment besides. Yet, it unconsciously betrays the injustice of such vengeance by the following acknowledgment:

Under the flag of England, northwest of Minnesota, the traveler can pass from Selkirk to the Rocky Mountains, without guard or escort—the administration of a commercial corporation, the Hudson's Bay Company, preventing Indian attack. Mails and packages of merchandise which have concentrated at Pembina, from the remotest limits of Central British America, encounter their first risks of savage depredation between the international frontier and St. Paul. During the summer of 1862, a party of emigrants from the Falls of St. Anthony to the gold mines near the Falls of Missouri, skirted the immense territory over which roam the Sioux tribes, by passing to the north so as to reach and cross the American boundary. Under the banner of St. George, not under the flag of the United States, were they assured of safety.

Do not such statements show that the fault is with us, and not with the red man? And ought they not to call up a blush to the face of our rulers—past and present? President LINCOLN has been earnestly considering whether he should order thirty-nine Indians to be hung or three hundred. Is it not time for him to consider, more earnestly, what can be done by the Government to prevent the necessity of all such considerations? Is it not time—if we are a civilized and capable nation—to frame some general plan which shall place our Government at least on a par with that of Canada?

### Important Habeas Corpus Case.

A habeas corpus case of some importance was decided before Judge Pearson at Harrisburg on Saturday. It appears that a man named John Went, of Susquehanna county, having been drafted for the service of the United States, and failing to report himself to the drafting commissioner for his county, was brought to Harrisburg by a squad of the provost guard battalion, and confined there to await orders. Went immediately petitioned for a writ of habeas corpus, with the usual allegation and deposition, and the writ having been granted, his Honor ordered a hearing of the case on Saturday morning. It was contended by the counsel for the petitioner that the United States authorities had not the right to force him into the service, inasmuch as he, as well as every other drafted man, was exempt on paying a fine, and that it was the petitioner's intention so to do. The Judge overruled the pleading of the petitioner, and remanded him back to the charge of the proper authorities, remarking that the proper course for him to pursue was to claim exemption under the drafting regulations.

and extending from the head of steamboat navigation on the Missouri River to the same navigable point on the Columbia River, is auriferous, and will doubtless be as productive of gold as similar areas at the sources of the Frazer River in British Columbia or in the interior of California. The expeditions from Minnesota under Captains Fisk and Morrison, have demonstrated that sixty days at the pace of oxen is the only barrier of time (with every convenience of water, grass, fuel and game) which separates the wheat fields of this State from the mining gulches whose streams flow into the Columbia River. With the summer of 1863 (always supposing that the General Government conquers peace with the Indians) the entire emigration to the Salmon River or Washington Territory gold mines will seek the Northern Overland Route, and, in all probability, Congress will extend the protection of a territorial government over the region above delineated.

But Dakota Territory has a region, not more than 500 miles west of St. Paul, which is represented by Lieut. Warren, as a result of actual exploration, to be rich in useful and precious metals. The Black Hills, a mountainous district as large as the State of Connecticut, is accessible by 120 miles of land travel from Fort Pierre on the Missouri River, and small vessels might ascend the Shayenne nearly to their base. Their exploration and settlement by adventurers from Dakota Territory is inevitable; and would have been accomplished two years ago (or at any time since the publication of Warren's description), except for the certainty of attack by the Teton Sioux, whose lodges converge thither from expeditions on the surrounding plains. The Black Hills are destined, by another year, to divide the gold seeking excitement of the country.

3. *The Dakota Settlements.*—A com-

plication far graver than the foregoing contingencies of mining adventure, is presented by the situation of the settlements on the Missouri, lately organized with all territorial forms, in pursuance of national legislation. Many of the pioneers of Minnesota have transferred their fortunes to the exposures of that remote district. Already surrounded, ten to one, by hostile Sioux, we can readily anticipate their consternation, if the Sioux war on the Minnesota frontier shall have no other practical result than to precipitate thousands of desperate refugees upon Teton villages, there to plot a new conspiracy upon the doomed borderers of Dakota, and the emigrant trains which the lodestone of gold will inevitably draw to the sources of the Missouri.

4. West of the Sioux nation extends the country of the Crow Indians; on the south the emigrant route of the Platte is an impassable barrier; the Assiniboinas, Gros Ventres and Arriekaras occupy the vicinity of Fort Union: and, dependent as the Sioux of the Plains are upon the buffalo for existence, they will resist any deportation to their midst of the Minnesota Indians. Thus war, not upon the kindred Indians, but upon the whites, as the parties actually responsible, will inevitably result, even if it is not (as I firmly believe) already waged. Lieut. Warren's report is very instructive on this point. One Teton chief said to him that if the Yanktons were going to sell their lands to the whites, he wished them informed that they could not come on his people's lands—they must stay with the whites.

—It is thus, upon a review of the relations of white emigrants and Indian occupants to the districts included in the boundaries of Dakota Territory, that I reach the conclusion already stated, that the policy of pushing and massing the In-



dians indefinitely westward, must be relinquished. Our Pacific empire is reaching out fraternal hands across the vast interior of the continent—those mountain ranges, which the last generation consigned to eternal barrenness, now swell the wealth of the nation by hundreds of millions—the telegraph is constructed and the railroad projected—the army of the Union, when its mission of restoration is accomplished, will renew its great labor by the occupation and conquest of all the physical barriers which have hitherto separated the intercourse of the opposite ocean coasts: and it is under these altered circumstances that the Sioux massacre of 1862 summons the nation to a reconsideration, once for all, of our Indian policy.

How changed from the epoch of Jackson's administration, when Leavenworth, and Gibson, and Ellsworth, consigned the Southern tribes to the Territory west of Arkansas, and our Northern tribes were planted on the choice locations of what is now the State of Kansas!

As the interior of the continent is explored it has become evident that every acre of arable land is needed for civilized occupation. Extensive and fertile reservations can no longer be spared.

The buffalo will soon disappear, with the overland movements of emigrant trains to the Northern gold fields. The Indian, as a nomade, has nearly reached the limit of subsistence.

And now, in the progress of this Indian war, the Government must meet the question—What will it do with at least 20,000 Indian captives—Sioux, Winnebagoes, and even Chippewas—the outcasts and outlaws of the war?

General Pope proposes to disarm them—to allot no more disproportionate reservations—to terminate the whole vicious system of individual annuities—to suffer

no trade or intercourse with them—to treat them as beings wholly irresponsible. He has urgently represented to the Government, that it is better economy and better policy, to feed and shelter and clothe these savages, as the State Governments provide for their insane, than to reinstate, in any respect, the corrupt system of administration which has fallen with its own weight. He insists, when brought face to face with the unutterable atrocities of the late massacre, that no other measure should be meted to their perpetrators, than to treat them as "wild beasts or maniacs."

Of course, these are considerations which will control the disposition of the mass of women and children, and others, whose lives may not be judicially declared to be forfeited.

We can find an analogy in the early Spanish occupation of New Mexico. The conquerors prescribed village limits to the natives, utterly ignoring their claim to the soil, and the result is this day apparent in the industry and civilization of the Pueblos of that country.

Where, then—on the scale of a well-regulated Lunatic Asylum—can these Indians be removed, so as no longer to endanger the settler—so as henceforth to be no obstruction to the westward march of emigration, and where, disarmed and impotent for mischief, that total interruption of their savage habits can be assured, which may afford some prospect of regeneration in the lapse of a generation?

In another paper an attempt will be made, with these qualifications, to answer the question—*Where shall the Indians go?*

## VI.

ISLE ROYALE, IN LAKE SUPERIOR, AS A PENAL INDIAN COLONY.

It is proposed that Isle Royale, in Lake Superior, shall be permanently occupied

by the Government for the confinement of all the Indian remnants of the States of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and of the entire Sioux nation, wherever scattered in the Territory of Dakota.

Isle Royale, as described in Lippencott's Gazetteer, is forty-two miles in length by five to eight miles in width, embracing about nine townships of land or 207,360 acres. It is heavily timbered, with a fertile soil and a climate similar to Nova Scotia. Copper and silver have been discovered, and some enterprises of mining have been undertaken. The island owes its origin to submarine, volcanic agency—the main mass is traversed by numerous ridges of bedded trap of unequal hardness, while the coast is intersected by deep passages or *fjords*, like those of Iceland and Norway. There is no better harborage on Lake Superior. The sheltered coves and bays of the coast, and the lakes of the interior, swarm with the siskowit, trout and other choice varieties of fish.

Let the Government here concentrate the following Indians:

<i>Chippewas—</i>	
Of Mississippi,....	2,000
Pillagers, &c.,.....	2,000
Other Wisconsin and Minnesota around Lake Superior,.....	4,500
In Michigan,.....	2,000
Red Lake, Pembina, &c.,.....	3,000
<i>Menomonees,</i> .....	800
<i>Sioux—</i>	
Minnesota,.....	6,200
Yanktons,.....	2,800
Yanktonais,.....	6,400
Tetons or Sioux west of Missouri,.....	15,000
<i>Winnebagoes,</i> .....	2,100
	<hr/> 46,880

Does any one suppose that the Indian is capable of agricultural industry? Concentrate 46,880 Indians upon 207,360 acres, and you have an average of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres to every man, woman and child of the population, affording "room and

verge enough" for future experiments and failures in that direction.

What will be the expense to the Government of such a penal colony? Can it exceed our present expenditure? I have no leisure to compile a full statement, but I find in Wheelock's statistical report for 1860, a table furnished by W. R. Bowes, Esqr., late Secretary of the Northwest Indian Superintendency, from which it appears that the total expenditure on account of the Indians in Minnesota from 1819 to 1859 inclusive, was \$4,208,310 28, or an annual average of about \$382,555. I assume that the present expenditures of Indian administration, in Michigan, Wisconsin, and on Sioux account in Dakota Territory, will bring the sum fully to \$500,000 annually. Distribute 46,880 Indians into families or lodges of five persons, and this would be \$54 for the inmates of each lodge, to be applied exclusively by Government agents in the purchase of indispensable food and clothing.

On the other hand we must consider that the Government will immediately enter into possession of 1,288,760 reserved lands and 7,680,000 acres of Indian lands unceded in the State of Minnesota alone, which, estimated at 10 cents an acre, (the usual valuation at a treaty of cession,) would constitute a capital of \$896,876. The complete extinction of Sioux pretensions to the soil in Dakota Territory will be worth, at least, \$2,000,000 more. One half of that sum, when the military arm of the Government has done its perfect work upon the savages, will be sufficient to gather together the women and children, and the men who escape death—to transport them to Isle Royale—there to construct huts or barracks, and organize the colony under severe military surveillance. Total disarmament, except a fish-hook—total non-in-

tercourse by whites, unless by Missionaries and other Government officials—a revenue cutter guarding the exits and entrances of the island—every possible encouragement of agriculture and fishery, but the principle recognized that starvation would be barely averted by Government assistance—these are the leading features of the only practicable measure which the necessities of the case submit for our consideration.

"What!" I may be asked: "Put Sioux and Chippewas together on an island of the size of Hennepin county, with their hereditary feuds!" Why not? Has not the time arrived to disregard utterly these fantastic airs of nationality on the part of Indians? When the tribes were removed from the older States west of the Mississippi, Government did not trouble itself with any question of internecine hostility. Iroquois and Algonquin were planted side by side, and peace firmly enforced between them. No better manifestation of the power of the Government could occur than to trample out of existence all of these Chippewa and Sioux traditions of war. For, be it understood, that the new Indian policy which is now proposed, is intended to be revolutionary. The Indian has forfeited all right to the attitude of the warrior, or even the hunter—he is a "wild beast or a maniac" to be either exterminated or imprisoned. In deference to the scruples of the civilized world, we are willing to forego the fullest measure of retribution—but we insist and appeal, *that he must darken the land of Minnesota never more!* Either the white man or the Indian must leave. An island far up to the international frontier—girt by storms and guarded by cannon—where, if Christianity or necessity can induce the slightest effort, he can live, or where, if he remains the obstinate beggar, Govern-

ment can administer its scanty dole—such a dwelling place, or prison, if you please, is the only alternative to extermination. The avengers of blood are on the track of the Indian throughout all our borders. His only City of Refuge is yonder in Lake Superior.

I have already indicated that there are some in our midst who favor a toleration of the Chippewas in the interminable jungles around the sources of the Mississippi. But let such consider, that the vital point is not the value of that labyrinth of lakes, and rice marshes: but the insecurity which the presence of Indians must henceforth inspire. Henceforth, for generations, the stealthy figure of an Indian will be an embodiment of horror in Minnesota. *Exile*—EXILE—ENILE, can be our only compromise in this matter.

"But hush!" it may be whispered, "you discourage emigration!" I deny it. When the world knows that never savage enemy was chastised as the Sioux Indian *must be*, and that, with God's blessing and the strong arm of the nation, the heathen is driven out from Minnesota never to return here, and never to inflict his cruelties on our brethren elsewhere—then will emigration seek our borders. Until that hour, the writer has not the heart to say "Come" to any man—much less to any woman.

## VII.

### THE ATTRACTIONS OF ISLE ROYALE.

I have given a general description of Isle Royale: but, looking further, I find in the Executive Documents of the Thirty-first Congress, (1849-50,) a report by Charles T. Jackson, U. S. Geological Surveyor of Mineral Lands of the United State in Michigan, addressed to the Secretary of the Interior, in which occurs a diary of a visit to Isle Royale. Vol. 3, Part 3. I compile a few items, which

seem to illustrate the physical features of the Island, and its adaptation to human occupation.

July 23, 1847. Reached Rock Harbor on Isle Royale—left there by steamer—tent pitched in a little grove near the shore.

July 24. Examined opening made by Otto and Isle Royale Company near Rock Harbor—crystals of quartz, colored brownish red by suboxide of copper—no valuable vein of copper—visited two beds of epidote rock, five miles distant, the upper of which is filled with native copper. The soil is fertile, producing most of the ordinary culinary vegetables in abundance. "Rock Harbor is the largest and most beautiful haven on Lake Superior, is deep enough for any vessel and is perfectly secure from every wind. The numerous islands which stand like so many castles at its entrance protect it from the heavy surges of the lake."

"Isle Royale is a most interesting island, singularly formed, cut up into deep bays and sending out long spits of rocks into the lake at its north-eastern extremity: while at its southwestern end it shelves far into the lake, presenting slightly inclined beds of red sandstone, the tabular sheets of which for miles from the coast are barely covered with water and offer dangerous shoals and reefs on which vessels and even boats would be quickly stranded if they endeavored to pass near that shore. How different is the coast on that portion of the island where the rocks are of igneous origin! Bold cliffs of columnar trap and castellated rocks, with mural escarpments, sternly present themselves to the surf, and defy the storms. The waters of the lake are deep, close to their very shores, and the largest ship might in many places lie close to the rocks as at an artificial pier. The color of the water, affected by the lines of the sky, and holding no sediment to dim its transparency, presents deeper tints than are seen on the lower lakes—deep tints of blue, green and red prevailing, according to the color of the sky and clouds.

"I have seen at sunset the surface of the lake off Isle Royale of a deep claret color—a tint much richer than ever is reflected from the waters of other lakes, or in any other country I have visited. Added to the fantastic irregularities of the coast and castle-like islands—the abrupt elevation of the hills inland rising like almost perpendicular walls from the shores of the numerous beautiful lakes which are scattered through the interior of the island, and corresponding with the lines of the mountain upheaval—we observe occasionally rude crags detached from the main body of the mountains, and in one place two lofty twin towers, standing on a hill-side, and rising perpendicularly, like huge chimneys, to the elevation of

seventy feet, while they are surrounded by deep green foliage of the primeval forest.

"Not less strange and fantastic are the effects of *mirage* on the appearance of the peculiar scenery of this island, and the northern coast of the lake seen from it. For weeks in summer the traveler may be gratified by a view of the most curious phantasmagoria—images of the islands and mountains being most vividly represented, in all their outlines, with their tufts of evergreen trees all inverted in the air and hanging over their terrestrial originals, and again repeated upright in another picture directly over the inverted reflection. A very beautiful view of *mirage* of this character was represented near Rock Harbor, where the islands presented an appearance as shown in the accompanying drawing.

"In the deep valleys which traverse the interior of the island, between the hills, there are either small lakes or swamps filled with a thick growth of cedar trees. On the hills, there is a mixture of maple, birch, spruce, fir, and pine trees, which are of thrifty growth, and will afford both timber and fuel. The soil formed by the decomposition of trap rocks is well known to be warm and fertile; and so far as cultivation has extended here, this soil will sustain a character equal to that of the trap ranges of Nova Scotia. In the low lands, the cold springs from the hills keep the soil cold and wet; but where they are not thus exposed, or if the lateral supplies of water were cut off by artificial drainage, I have no doubt the soil might be cultivated and would produce good crops. This has been proved by Mr. Ransom, at Rock Harbor, where the low-land soil, which was originally covered with swamp muck, is now drained and fertile.

"Under the shade of the crags, and among the thick evergreen swamps of white cedar, it not unfrequently happens that perennial ice is found covered by a layer of turf. Mr. Blake discovered a considerable area of ice thus preserved in mid-summer, near Rock Harbor. On the immediate rocky border of the island, the influence of the cold air from the lake is most strikingly exemplified in the stunted growth of the fir and spruce trees which cover the rocks; and in numerous instances we were able also to witness the joint effects of cold air and a limited supply of soil, in reducing the growth of trees, and giving the wood an extremely fine texture. In the cracks and crevices of trap rocks, where a little soil remains, we find small trees have sprung up, having all the appearance of age which the dwarfed trees raised by the ingenious Chinese gardener are known to present. These little trees, from four inches to a foot high, are covered with mosses like old trees, and the tiny stem presents in its bark and wood the different layers representing many seasons.

In cutting through these little trees, they were found, in some instances, to possess forty different annual rings, indicating as many summers. Mr. Blake made a collection of numerous specimens, bearing proofs in their structure of great age. The wood of spruce or fir in these diminutive trees was found nearly as hard as box wood, and as fine. The trap rocks on this coast are very compact, and more crystalline and less vesicular than those of Keweenaw point. They are also distinguished by the greater prevalence of epidote beds and datholite veins. Indurated clay and semi-jasper veins also occur in it. Some of the trap is porphyritic, and it occasionally becomes so crystalline as to resemble sienite. Among the loose rounded stones or boulders are noticed porphyry, with a red felspar base, containing occasionally a little quartz, and spotted with large crystals of a lighter red felspar and granite, with white and black mica. There being no porphyry or granite in place on the island, these boulders must have been transported from a distance and deposited here. They cover not only the coast and low-lands, but also the highest hills and elevated valleys.

"On the shore occur pebbles of all the different rocks and minerals of the coast, mixed with drift boulders, which have been transported thither in former times. Lumps of native copper and polished pebbles containing it are frequently met with on the shore, and were known to abound there in former times—the aboriginal tribes having been found to be fully acquainted with the fact that loose pieces of copper were readily procured on the shores of Isle Royale."

July 29. Visited Castle Rocks—curious needles or chimneys of trap rock. They stand like monuments on the side of a hill three or four hundred feet above the level of the lake.

August 6. Passing along the north shore found a number of safe landing places for boats, with good gravel beaches and indentations in the shore.

August 11. Visited a fishing station where abundance of siskowit and lake trout were taken—purchased potatoes and camped in a beautiful cove of a small island adjacent.

September 14. Detained to date waiting for a steamer."

I have omitted Prof. Jackson's mineralogical details. Generally they were unfavorable to the mining prospects—at least, far less favorable than his observations in the Montreal and Keweenaw districts. I apprehend that the mines of silver and copper on Isle Royale will not interrupt its appropriation as a penal colony for the Indians of the Northwest.

### VIII.

#### A PETITION TO THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

One word shall embrace all—SECURITY!

Under the flag of England, northwest of Minnesota, the traveler can pass from Selkirk to the Rocky Mountains, without guard or escort—the administration of a commercial corporation, the Hudson's Bay Company, preventing Indian attack. Mails and packages of merchandise which have concentrated at Pembina, from the remotest limits of Central British America, encounter their first risks of savage depredation between the international frontier and Saint Paul. During the summer of 1862, a party of emigrants from the Falls of Saint Anthony to the gold mines near the Falls of the Missouri, skirted the immense territory over which roam the Sioux tribes, by passing so far to the North as to reach and cross the American boundary. Under the banner of St. George, not under the flag of the United States, were they assured of safety.

The people of the States, which embrace the sources of the Mississippi and the Great Lakes, send their petition to Congress and the country, that this national humiliation shall cease. They ask that the rights of an American citizen, as well as of human nature, shall be respected upon the plains of the Northwest. To this end, the power of the Sioux nation must first be crushed by arms over the whole region from Lake Superior to the Black Hills, to be followed by the policy of separation and isolation. Extermination for all who resist—exile to Isle Royale for all who submit, would be the action of old Rome. Will the military Republic of the New World do less?

## IX.

## AN APPEAL TO THE CHRISTIAN PUBLIC.

I regret that these lines pass through the press without an opportunity of consultation with Bishop Whipple of Minnesota, now absent at the East upon an errand of mercy to the refugees from Indian massacre. Since his consecration as Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church for this diocese, his views of the dangers and demoralization, resulting from the condition of things on the frontiers of Minnesota, have been boldly expressed, and, alas! are vindicated by events. No citizen is more entitled to deference in determining a future Indian policy, than Bishop Whipple. Will he not give the force of his approval, and the eloquence of his persuasion, to the proposition above advanced of *Disarmament—Removal—Restraint upon the ample but limited area of Isle Royale*? I cannot believe that he will labor to replace, in any degree, the contaminations and hazards which are inseparable from the former methods of Indian administration.

Of a more Puritan mould, the Rev. Dr. Kendall, Secretary of the American Home Missionary Society, who recently visited Minnesota, readily adopted and proclaimed the opinion that until a revolution was effected *by force* in the situation of the Indian, Missionary labor and sacrifice would be thrown away. I invite his earnest consideration to the measure now

proposed. Does it not afford the only possible interruption to those inveterate habits and traditions of barbarism, which have baffled the religious instructions of half a century? It may be, indeed, that no other result than failure will be witnessed, until the advent of a new generation in the seclusion of Isle Royale—but certainly nothing can be hoped under the circumstances which will elsewhere follow recent events.

Through such representative minds, our appeals may reach the religious public of the East, that, until the Sioux nation is crushed into abject submission, and their remnants, with the other fragments of adjacent tribes, are deported and planted in Lake Superior, there shall be no mistaken sympathy or inadequate measures—that the judgment which the Lord executed upon the heathen in the times of old, may be suffered to fall upon the irreclaimable barbarism of the Indian savage; and that until the “heathen are perished out of his land,” the Books of the Old Testament, with all their traditions of extermination and exile to the enemies of Israel, may be read reverently and assiduously in all the churches. Give to us, and our children, present and future security: and we will see, in the interest of humanity, that justice is tempered by mercy. Only, men and brethren, *let not the work of the Lord be done negligently!*

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# THE SIOUX WAR:

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE BY THE MINNESOTA  
CAMPAIGN OF 1863:

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE DURING A DAKOTA  
CAMPAIGN OF 1864.

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